

Prompt:

Analyze the similarities and differences in the patterns of interaction across TWO of the following postclassical trade networks:

- **Silk Road**
- **Indian Ocean**
- **Trans-Sahara**

STEP 1: WRITE YOUR OWN thesis statement (on your own paper) for the prompt. Base it on your pre-writing paper.

Make sure you provide evidence. Then grade/highlight YOUR OWN THESIS.

Step2: Let me know when you are done – take the “sample thesis response” paper – and begin following the directions on it.

Highlight:

Opening statement - Pink

Thesis statement – Yellow brackets

Similarities/Comparisons – Orange

Differences/Contrasts - Green

Specific evidence or examples– PURPLE

IN BLACK OR DARK PENCIL – CIRCLE THE COMPARISON PHRASES YOU USE

IN BLACK OR DARK PENCIL – PUT A SQUARE AROUND ANY CONTRASTING PHRASES YOU USED

Compare/Contrast Tips

- **Thesis** must directly and clearly state what is similar and what is different.
- Cover all parts of the question. Try to address similarities and differences *as equally as possible*.
- **Use appropriate historical evidence. Give examples** to prove that what you are saying in your thesis, and subsequent topic sentences, is true and that the similarities or differences exist.
- **Analyze the REASONS for the similarities or differences.** **Think of events** (recent and not so recent) which might have led to or might account for this situation. You can have different reasons for different similarities/differences. Often some of the big picture events will be good reasons.

Direct Comparisons

- **VERY IMPORTANT:** Make DIRECT comparisons. You need to fully state how they are similar or different. BOTH sides must be explained for similarities and differences. (If they both had polytheistic religions, give examples for both. If one treated women well and the other did not, give examples for both.) When writing the essay you must use comparative words or phrases in each paragraph at least once. Consider using these words to more forcefully get your point across:

Introduction Paragraph

- Briefly explain the historical context of the topic.
- Write a Thesis Statement that:
 - Is 2-3 sentences long.
 - Briefly explains each of the major **arguments** you will make in your essay in response to the prompt.
 - For a C-C essay, you will need to include similarities AND differences in your thesis.

Example Introduction

“During the classical and post-classical eras, the amount of interregional trade in Afro-Eurasia grew exponentially. This led to extremely widespread exchange of ideas, goods, religions, and technologies. Two of these important networks were the Silk Road and the Indian Ocean. { These two networks were similar in that they facilitated the widespread diffusion of new cultural ideas and universal religions such as Buddhism and Islam as well as a variety of valuable trade goods. However, they differed in that the Silk Road generally involved higher value goods than the Indian Ocean, and that the Silk Road depended more heavily on political stability. These differences were primarily due to the differing geography of the Silk Road and Indian Ocean)

Direct Comparisons

- “Both the Silk Road and the Indian Ocean facilitated the spread of new religions.”
- “Both the Silk Road and the Indian Ocean facilitated the growth of cosmopolitan cities that served as centers of trade.”
- “The Silk Road generally involved higher value goods than the Indian Ocean.”
- “The Silk Road was more dependent than the Indian Ocean on political stability.”

How to highlight your first body paragraph

- Highlight:
- Opening statement – Pink
- Direct Comparison - GREEN
- EVIDENCE to Support your claim –
 - FIRST PIECE OF EVIDENCE – PURPLE
 - Second piece of evidence – Yellow
 - Third piece of evidence - Orange
- Concluding sentence - BLUE